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Attorneys for Defendant

YANKA INDUSTRIES, INC. d/b/a MASTERCLASS

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

ROTHSCHILD BROADCAST
DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS, LLC,

Plaintiff,

v.

YANKA INDUSTRIES, INC.
d/b/a MASTERCLASS,

Defendant.

C.A. No. 3:21-cv-04553-WHO

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

**DEFENDANT'S ANSWER, AFFIRMATIVE
DEFENSES, AND COUNTERCLAIMS TO
PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT**

Yanka Industries, Inc. d/b/a Masterclass ("Defendant" or "MasterClass") files this Answer, Affirmative Defenses, and Counterclaims to Plaintiff Rothschild Broadcast Distribution Systems, LLC's ("Plaintiff" or "RBDS") Complaint for Patent Infringement ("Complaint"). MasterClass

1 denies the allegations and characterizations in Plaintiff's Complaint unless expressly admitted in
2 the following paragraphs.

3 **PARTIES**

4 1. MasterClass is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to
5 the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 1 of the Complaint, and, on that basis, denies the
6 allegations of Paragraph 1 of the Complaint.

7 2. MasterClass admits it is a Delaware corporation. MasterClass admits it may be
8 served through its agent, The Corporation Trust Company, Corporation Trust Center, 1209
9 Orange St. Wilmington, DE 19801. MasterClass denies the remaining allegations in Paragraph 2
10 of the Complaint.

11 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

12 3. MasterClass admits the Complaint purports to set forth an action for patent
13 infringement, but MasterClass denies it has committed or is committing acts of infringement and
14 denies Plaintiff is entitled to any relief. MasterClass denies any remaining allegations in
15 Paragraph 3 of the Complaint.

16 4. MasterClass admits this Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action
17 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a) because Plaintiff has alleged infringement of a
18 patent, but MasterClass denies it has committed or is committing acts of infringement and denies
19 Plaintiff is entitled to any relief. MasterClass denies any remaining allegations in Paragraph 4 of
20 the Complaint.

21 5. MasterClass does not contest whether personal jurisdiction over it properly lies in
22 this District in this action. MasterClass denies the remaining allegations of Paragraph 5 of the
23 Complaint.

24 6. MasterClass denies it has committed or is committing acts of infringement and
25 denies Plaintiff is entitled to any relief. MasterClass denies any remaining allegations in
26 Paragraph 6 of the Complaint.

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1 7. MasterClass does not contest that venue may be proper in this District in this
2 action. MasterClass denies it has committed or is committing acts of infringement. MasterClass
3 denies the remaining allegations of Paragraph 7 of the Complaint.

4 **[ALLEGED] BACKGROUND**

5 8. MasterClass admits the '221 Patent speaks for itself but denies any
6 characterizations inconsistent therewith and, on that basis, denies any remaining allegations in
7 Paragraph 8 of the Complaint.

8 9. MasterClass is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to
9 the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 9 of the Complaint, and, on that basis, denies the
10 allegations of Paragraph 9 of the Complaint.

11 10. MasterClass is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to
12 the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 10 of the Complaint, and, on that basis, denies the
13 allegations of Paragraph 10 of the Complaint.

14 11. MasterClass admits the '221 Patent contains thirteen claims including two
15 independent claims (claims 1 and 7) and eleven dependent claims.

16 **COUNT ONE**

17 **([Alleged] Infringement of United States Patent No. 8,856,221)**

18 12. MasterClass refers to and incorporates the allegations in Paragraphs 1–11, the
19 same as if set forth herein.

20 13. MasterClass admits the Complaint purports to set forth an action for patent
21 infringement, but MasterClass denies it has committed or is committing acts of infringement and
22 denies Plaintiff is entitled to any relief. MasterClass denies any remaining allegations in
23 Paragraph 13 of the Complaint.

24 14. MasterClass denies it has committed or is committing acts of infringement and
25 denies Plaintiff is entitled to any relief. MasterClass denies any remaining allegations in
26 Paragraph 14 of the Complaint.

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1 15. MasterClass admits the '221 Patent speaks for itself but denies any
2 characterizations inconsistent therewith and, on that basis, denies any remaining allegations in
3 Paragraph 15 of the Complaint.

4 16. MasterClass denies the allegations in Paragraph 16 of the Complaint.

5 17. MasterClass denies the allegations in Paragraph 17 of the Complaint.

6 18. MasterClass denies the allegations in Paragraph 18 of the Complaint.

7 19. MasterClass denies the allegations in Paragraph 19 of the Complaint.

8 20. MasterClass denies the allegations in Paragraph 20 of the Complaint.

9 21. MasterClass denies the allegations in Paragraph 21 of the Complaint.

10 22. MasterClass denies the allegations in Paragraph 22 of the Complaint.

11 23. MasterClass denies the allegations in Paragraph 23 of the Complaint.

12 24. MasterClass admits it owns the MasterClass video learning platform. MasterClass
13 denies the remaining allegations in Paragraph 24 of the Complaint.

14 25. MasterClass denies the allegations in Paragraph 25 of the Complaint.

15 26. MasterClass denies the allegations in Paragraph 26 of the Complaint.

16 27. MasterClass denies the allegations in Paragraph 27 of the Complaint.

17 28. MasterClass denies the allegations in Paragraph 28 of the Complaint.

18 29. MasterClass denies the allegations in Paragraph 29 of the Complaint.

19 30. MasterClass denies the allegations in Paragraph 30 of the Complaint.

20 31. MasterClass denies the allegations in Paragraph 31 of the Complaint.

21 32. MasterClass denies the allegations in Paragraph 32 of the Complaint.

22 33. MasterClass denies the allegations in Paragraph 33 of the Complaint.

23 34. MasterClass denies the allegations in Paragraph 34 of the Complaint.

24 35. MasterClass denies the allegations in Paragraph 35 of the Complaint.

25 36. MasterClass denies the allegations in Paragraph 36 of the Complaint.

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1 37. MasterClass admits Exhibit A purports to be a copy of the '221 Patent.
2 MasterClass admits the '221 Patent speaks for itself. MasterClass denies any remaining
3 allegations in Paragraph 37 of the Complaint.

4 38. MasterClass denies the allegations in Paragraph 38 of the Complaint.

5 39. MasterClass denies the allegations in Paragraph 39 of the Complaint.

6 40. MasterClass denies the allegations in Paragraph 40 of the Complaint.

7 41. MasterClass is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to
8 the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 41 of the Complaint, and, on that basis, denies the
9 allegations of Paragraph 41 of the Complaint.

10 42. MasterClass denies the allegations in Paragraph 42 of the Complaint.

11 **[PLAINTIFF'S] DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

12 43. MasterClass is not required to provide a response to Plaintiff's demand for a jury
13 trial.

14 **[PLAINTIFF'S] PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

15 MasterClass denies Plaintiff is entitled to any relief from MasterClass and denies all the
16 allegations contained in Paragraphs (a)-(d) of Plaintiff's Prayer for Relief.

17 **AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES**

18 MasterClass's Affirmative Defenses are listed below. MasterClass reserves the right to
19 amend its answer to add additional Affirmative Defenses consistent with the facts discovered in
20 this action.

21 **FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

22 MasterClass has not infringed and does not infringe, under any theory of infringement
23 (including directly (whether individually or jointly) or indirectly (whether contributorily or by
24 inducement)), any valid, enforceable claim of the '221 Patent.

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1 **SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

2 Each asserted claim of the '221 Patent is invalid for failure to comply with one or more of
3 the requirements of the United States Code, Title 35, including without limitation, 35 U.S.C.
4 §§ 101, 102, 103, and 112, and the rules, regulations, and laws pertaining thereto.

5 **THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

6 To the extent that Plaintiff and any predecessors in interest to any of the '221 Patent failed
7 to properly mark any of their relevant products or materials as required by 35 U.S.C. § 287, or
8 otherwise give proper notice that MasterClass's actions allegedly infringe the '221 Patent,
9 MasterClass is not liable to Plaintiff for the acts alleged to have been performed before it received
10 actual notice that it was allegedly infringing the '221 Patent.

11 **FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

12 To the extent Plaintiff asserts that MasterClass indirectly infringes, either by contributory
13 infringement or inducement of infringement, MasterClass is not liable to Plaintiff for the acts
14 alleged to have been performed before MasterClass knew that its actions would cause indirect
15 infringement.

16 **FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

17 Plaintiff's attempted enforcement of the '221 Patent against MasterClass is barred by one
18 or more of the equitable doctrines of estoppel, acquiescence, waiver, and unclean hands.

19 **SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

20 The claims of the '221 Patent are not entitled to a scope sufficient to encompass any system
21 employed or process practiced by MasterClass.

22 **SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

23 Plaintiff's Complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted because the
24 '221 Patent does not claim patentable subject matter.

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EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Should MasterClass be found to infringe any valid, enforceable claim of the '221 Patent, such infringement was not willful.

MASTERCLASS'S COUNTERCLAIMS

For its counterclaims against Plaintiff Rothschild Broadcast Distribution Systems, LLC ("RBDS"), Counterclaim Plaintiff Yanka Industries, Inc. d/b/a MasterClass ("MasterClass") alleges as follows:

PARTIES

1. Counterclaim Plaintiff MasterClass is a company organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware, with a place of business at 660 4th Street, #443, San Francisco, California 94107. MasterClass admits it may be served through its agent, The Corporation Trust Company, Corporation Trust Center, 1209 Orange St. Wilmington, DE 19801

2. Upon information and belief based solely on Paragraph 1 of the Complaint as pled by Plaintiff, Counterclaim Defendant RBDS is a limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of the State of Texas, and maintains a place of business at 1 East Broward Boulevard, Suite 700, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301.

JURISDICTION

3. MasterClass incorporates by reference Paragraphs 1–2 above.

4. These counterclaims arise under the patent laws of the United States, Title 35, United States Code. The jurisdiction of this Court is proper under at least 35 U.S.C. § 271 et seq., and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1338, 1367, and 2201–02.

5. RBDS has consented to the personal jurisdiction of this Court at least by commencing its action for patent infringement in this District, as set forth in its Complaint.

6. Based solely on RBDS's filing of this action, venue is proper, though not necessarily convenient, in this District pursuant to at least 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391 and 1400.

COUNT I

DECLARATION REGARDING NON-INFRINGEMENT

7. MasterClass incorporates by reference Paragraphs 1–6 above.

8. Based on RBDS’s filing of this action and at least MasterClass’s First Affirmative Defense, an actual controversy has arisen and now exists between the parties as to whether MasterClass infringes U.S. Patent No. 8,856,221 (the “’221 Patent”).

9. MasterClass does not infringe at least claim 7 of the ’221 Patent because, among other things, it does not make, use, offer to sell, sell, or import any method or system that “receiv[es] a request message including media data,” “wherein the media data includes time data that indicates a length of time to store the requested media content.”

10. Pursuant to the Federal Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2201 et seq., MasterClass requests a declaration by the Court that MasterClass has not infringed and does not infringe any claim of the ’221 Patent under any theory (including directly (whether individually or jointly) or indirectly (whether contributorily or by inducement)).

COUNT II

DECLARATION REGARDING INVALIDITY

11. MasterClass incorporates by reference Paragraphs 1–10 above.

12. Based on RBDS’s filing of this action and at least MasterClass’s Second Affirmative Defense, an actual controversy has arisen and now exists between the parties as to the validity of the claims of the ’221 Patent.

13. The asserted claims of the ’221 Patent are anticipated and/or rendered obvious by, *inter alia*, U.S. Pat. No. 9,898,500 and U.S. Patent Appl. No. 13/269,614.

14. U.S. Pat. No. 9,898,500 teaches or suggests “techniques and systems for storage, delivery and acquisition of digital assets stored in cloud data storage.” ’500 Pat., Abstract.

Dated: July 7, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Rodeen Talebi

Rodeen Talebi